

February 19, 2009

Dear Members of the Public Safety Committee,

My name is Douglas J. White. I am a full-time Bail Enforcement Agent, Bail Enforcement Liaison to the Bail Association of Connecticut, and a Gold Card Bondsmen/B.E.A. Firearms Instructor approved by the Department of Public Safety, Division of State Police, Special License and Firearms Unit.

I'm testifying today in *support* of **House Bill 5158**, "An Act Concerning Surety Bail Bond Agents and Professional". I believe the proposed bill can go a long way to improve the regulation of Surety Bail Bond Agents, and in turn increase public safety as it relates to the business of surety bail bonds and the business of apprehending bail secured fugitives and returning them to the custody of the state of Connecticut.

We are eager to see the passage of this bill. I, personally, have strong feelings regarding the quality and duration of training required to obtain a pistol permit for use in the surety bail bonds and bail enforcement industry. Today, in particular, I am here to address section one, regarding the annual firearms safety refresher course that has been proposed. I firmly believe that this type of annual course is long overdue. I also believe that it should be a robust course that addresses firearms safety **as it applies specifically** to the bail industry and the inherent dangers encountered in such work.

This section of the bill is a step in the right direction, however, we need to take a giant leap to address serious safety concerns that are existent today before someone is injured or killed by a stray bullet. This eventuality could be avoided through realization of inherent risks and proper and consistent training with firearms. A safety refresher is needed, long overdue, and in my humble opinion, not nearly enough to avoid a catastrophe that will very likely end in the loss of innocent life. I firmly believe that anything less than immediate attention to this matter demonstrates deliberate indifference to the public's safety.

I would be more than happy to discuss this matter further, thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

Douglas J. White